

The J.W. Kiracofe Family of the United Brethren Church

The Kiracofe name is well-known within the Pennsylvania churches of the United Brethren Church – and also in Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and Indiana. That family was blessed with a careful historian who meticulously researched and documented both family and denominational history in all five of those states and beyond. His name was John Wesley Kiracofe (1883-1967), grandson of the patriarch J.W. Kiracofe named in the above title. The results of his research, including copious notes and correspondence and photographs containing information that otherwise would have been lost, were preserved by his son John Milton “Jack” Kiracofe (1920-1998) of Boiling Springs, Cumberland County PA, who graciously turned everything over to the editor of *The Chronicle*¹. Those materials now reside in the archives of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This family of J.W. Kiracofe (1816-1884) sent six sons into the ordained ministry of the United Brethren Church. Following the 1889 denomination split², three of the sons remained in the mainstream branch of the church (which later merged into the Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist denominations) and three sided with the Old Constitution branch (which continues to exist today as a separate denomination). One remarkable aspect of the story is that this Kiracofe family and their descendants played extremely important roles in both branches of the United Brethren Church. While there was no animosity within the family, their divergent paths have contributed to the fact that before now no effort has been made to produce a comprehensive account of the family’s contribution to the United Brethren Church.

This article gives an overview of the J.W. Kiracofe family and a brief sketch of each of the ordained ministers in the J.W. Kiracofe family tree.

In the Beginning

The story begins, as is the custom in many family histories, with an account of the immigrant ancestor. The follow paragraphs are adapted from a presentation

¹ See “Comments on the History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ” written by John Wesley Kiracofe circa 1945 and printed in the 1991 volume of *The Chronicle*, pages 41-55. That article (which includes photographs taken by Kiracofe, digital copies of documents preserved by Kiracofe, and even a 1953 picture of Kiracofe dressed as circuit rider at a Quincy Orphanage Homecoming) concentrates on his research into the United Brethren denomination. The present article concentrates on his research into the Kiracofe family, in particular on those family members involved in the ordained ministry. The United Methodist denominational archives in Madison NJ also have a John Wesley Kiracofe collection that includes material dated 1877-1954.

² This split occurred at the 1889 General Conference in York PA when Bishop Milton Wright (the father of Orville and Wilbur) led a walk-out by those opposed to the new constitution which, among other things, did not prohibit membership in secret societies.

made by John Wesley Kiracofe at a June 7, 1942, family reunion held in Dayton OH.

“Our immigrant ancestor John Frederick Kiracofe (1760-1830) was a pioneer, one who went before and paved the way for others to follow. He was a trail blazer. Anybody can follow the beaten track, but it takes a man of big soul and courageous spirit to move out into a new land ‘not knowing wither he went.’ That same spirit characterized all of our ancestors who came to the shores of America. They entered upon a wilderness, a land yet unconquered, yet rich in possibilities, and they gave of their effort to bring the new land into cultivation and to make it a fit place of habitation for the generations to follow. We owe much to those who did that, and this generation would be unworthy of what has been handed down to them if they failed to pay due reverence to those of the past who blessed them.

“John Frederick Kiracofe came to the port of Philadelphia PA from Germany on August 23, 1773.³ He went to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and settled near New Market VA. He married Catherine Bowman⁴ December 30, 1782; to this union there were two children – John and Henry. He next married Barbara Messersmith; to this union there were twelve children – George, Frederick, Jacob, Susan, Catherine, Ann, Elizabeth, Hannah, Christiana, Barbara, May and Andrew. After his second marriage, he sold his farm in Shenandoah County, moved to Augusta County VA in the spring of 1799, and bought in the year 1800 from John Bing a farm of 390 acres on Thorney Branch near Emmanuel’s Church.⁵ John Frederick died in 1830, survived by his wife Barbara and his children. His will was made October 4, 1828 and probated in the November 1830 term of the court, with Henry and George as the executors. On the first day of May, 1832, a deed of transfer was executed by the children, of whom there were fourteen.

“I will briefly outline my line from John Frederick – through Henry, who was the father of these children: John (my grandfather), George, Rebecca, Jane, Henry, William, Katherine, Addison, Delia and Barbara. Henry, William and Addison settled near Lima OH, where there descendants still reside.

“My grandfather John remained in Virginia, married Mary Showalter in 1814, and lived near Stribling Springs. There were eleven children – including one

³ More recent research has brought this statement into question, and John Wesley Kiracofe left no rationale/documentation for his assertion. John Frederick Kiracofe’s name does not appear on the passenger list – but he would have been 13 at the time and names were not recorded for persons under 16. The prevailing opinion is that Kiracofe was a Hessian soldier brought over to fight for the British who either deserted or was captured and escaped, eventually finding his way into the Shenandoah Valley.

⁴ This was the widowed Mrs. Catherine (nee Wacker) Bowman, and the land he purchased in Shenandoah County was from his father-in-law Johannes Wacker.

⁵ Emmanuel Church of the Brethren, near Mt. Solon, now has a new building, erected on the same site as the original structure.

set of twins (one of whom was my father Rev. John Wesley Kiracofe), and one set of triplets⁶. There were nine boys – six of whom were ministers of the Gospel: Rev. Jacob, Rev. Charles and Rev. Joseph came to Ohio and later to Indiana. Their descendants are in Ohio and Indiana.”

The Abbreviated Kiracofe Family Tree on the following page gives the lineage of PATRIARCH J.W. Kiracofe and the relationships between the **ordained pastors** – each of whom will be covered in a brief biographical sketch. There is almost certainly not another family tree with pastors that served the UB, UBOC, EUB and UM churches as congregational pastors, conference superintendents, and institutional and denomination-wide leaders in such significant positions through the 1889, 1946 and 1968 denominational splits and unions.



John W. and Mary (Showalter) Kiracofe⁷

⁶ The triplets actually have different birthdates, as two were born one hour before midnight and the third was born two hours later.

⁷ This picture is from the website shambaugh.org/pictures.htm, which contains many labeled photographs of the extended Kiracofe family.

Abbreviated Kiracofe family tree

- 0. John Frederick Kiracofe (1760-1830)
 - m. Mrs. Catherine Mae (Wacker) Bowman
 - 1. John Kiracofe (1784-?)
 - m. Susan Wooddell (1792-1839)
 - 1. George Henry Kiracofe (1790-1840)
 - m. Margaret Peggy Detamore (1791-1865)
 - 2. PATRIARCH John W. Kiracofe (1816-1884)
 - m. Mary Hamilton Showalter (1815-1891)
 - 3. **Rev. Jacob Henry Kiracofe** (1839-1909)
 - m. Mary Ann _____ (1843-1873)
 - m. Emma A. Keller (1858-1944)
 - 3. **Rev. John Wesley Kiracofe** (1842-1914)
 - m. Catherine Virginia Snyder (1846-1870)
 - m. Susan Penora Buxton (1853-1939)
 - 4. HISTORIAN John Wesley Kiracofe (1883-1967)
 - m. Lydia Peters (1886-1974)
- 3. **Rev. Charles Hiram Kiracofe** (1845-1921)
 - m. Anvilla Rundles (1843-1924)
- 3. **Rev. George William Kiracofe** (1847-1919)
 - m. Virginia Catherine Koontz (1842-1922)
- 3. **Rev. Nimrod Addison Kiracofe** (1849-1921)
 - m. Mary Elizabeth Perry (1847-1889)
 - m. Kathryn Sarah Dick (1865-1930)
- 3. James Herbert Kiracofe (1857-1936)
 - m. Lillie Velona Stroh (1870-1959)
 - 4. Myra Grace Kiracofe (1889-1965)
 - m. **Rev. John Harrison Ness** (1891-1980)
 - 5. **Rev. John Herbert Ness** (1919-2000)
 - m. Lucille Hull (1920-2007)
 - m. Naomi V. Kaiser Grieve (1918-2002)
 - 4. Pauline A. Kiracofe (1899-1985)
 - m. **Rev. Albert Snyder** (1896-1965)
 - 3. **Rev. Joseph Harvey Kiracofe** (1857-1935)
 - m. Ida Arabella Blin (1862-1895)
 - m. Emma Augusta Spade (1861-1943)
 - 2. **Rev. William Henry Kiracofe** (1827-1901)
 - m. Malinda Brenneman (1831-1915)
 - 3. **Rev. Samuel H. Kiracofe** (1859-1886)

The biographical sketches begin with the obituaries of the parents J.W. Kiracofe and Mary Showalter Kiracofe as given in a booklet⁸ prepared by the previously referenced family historian John Wesley Kiracofe. Notice that the father's 1884 memoir states there are six sons who are preachers in the United Brethren Church, while the mother's 1891 memoir refers to three preacher sons in each branch of the denomination.

Father – J.W. Kiracofe (1816-1884)

John Kiracofe was born March 7, 1816, died August 6, 1884, aged 68 years and some months. He was married September 28, 1837, to Mary Showalter, who still lingers, patiently waiting to be released, and by whom he had twelve children, nine of whom are still living, and six of whom are preaching the Gospel of Christ in the United Brethren Church. The deceased was converted to God at a Campmeeting held at Naked Creek, in Rockingham County, Va., in 1832, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he lived and died a consistent and faithful member, and of which he was for some years a Class Leader and Steward.⁹

He was gifted in prayer, and a zealous and good workman in the church; and he is greatly missed, not only by the family, but also by the church of which he was a member. He seemed to enjoy constant communion with God, and the truth and spirit of Christ had so renovated and refined his soul and saturated his whole being, that his face at times shone like the face of Moses. He walked with God for fifty-two years, and was not, for God took him. And before his death he had the testimony that he pleased God. He died suddenly, but was ready. "Blessed are dead who die in the Lord."

Mother – Mary Showalter Kiracofe (1815-1891)

Mary Kiracofe, commonly known as "Polly" Kiracofe, was born in Augusta County, Va., December 22nd, 1815, and died at Salem, Roanoke County, Va., March 29th, 1891, aged 75 years, 3 months, and 7 days. Her maiden name was Showalter. At about the age of twenty-one she was married to John Kiracofe, who died nearly seven years ago. She was the mother of twelve children, nine sons and three daughters, nine of whom—eight sons and one daughter—are still living. Six of the eight sons living, are ministers of the Gospel— three in each branch of the United Brethren Church. She was a woman of remarkable powers of endurance and industry.

She performed, almost unaided, not only the ordinary house work in a large family, but, until her sons were young men, she spun, wove, cut and made nearly all their clothing. For a period of sixty years she lived a quiet, unassuming Christian, and a consistent member of the Methodist Church. When death came, it found her, in her own words, "ready and waiting." Her body was taken back to the old home, near Stribling Springs, Va., which she had left only a few months before, and there in the old Oak Hill

⁸ "Memories of Rev. J.W. Kiracofe" by his son John Wesley Kiracofe, printed sometime after September 1914.

⁹ The natural assumption is that the 1832 campmeeting at Naked Creek was Methodist Episcopal, but efforts to identify the exact location, preachers and/or denomination of the camp have not been successful.

Graveyard, on the 2nd day of April, attended by her daughter and seven sons, called together from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and a large crowd of other relatives and friends, it was quietly laid by the side of the sleeping dust of her husband, and the children returned sadly to the old home for a few hours, and then separated, probably not to meet thus again on earth.

Three Sons in the dissenting UB Old Constitution Church

Each of the following was born near Stribling Springs, Augusta County VA.

Rev. Jacob Henry Kiracofe (1839-1909), oldest child of J.W. and Polly Kiracofe, was born October 6, 1839. Being opposed to the institution of slavery, and not wanting to be forced into military service, at the age of 24 he and his younger brother Charles relocated¹⁰ to Ohio to join relatives already established there. He joined the Auglaize Conference (along with his father's brother William Kiracofe) in 1871 and was ordained (along with his uncle) in 1874. In 1889, he seceded from the Auglaize Conference to side with the Old Constitution faction of the denomination. He died January 12, 1909, in Bellefontaine OH and is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery, West Mansfield OH. An obituary appears in the February 3, 1909, *The Religious Telescope*¹¹, page 30.

Rev. Charles Hiram Kiracofe (1845-1921) was born January 25, 1845. He joined his older brother Jacob in his flight to Ohio and eventually graduated in 1871 from Otterbein University in Westerville OH – where he met his wife Anvilla Rundles (1823-1924). After teaching and serving United Brethren pastorates, he taught at the denomination's Westerfield College in Westerfield IL 1873-1879. He served as president of Hartsville College¹² 1879-1889. A delegate from the North Ohio Conference to the historic 1889 General Conference, Charles was one of the delegates that joined Bishop Milton Wright in the walk-out to form the UB Old Constitution Church – and the importance of the of the Kiracofes to the new denomination cannot be overstated. Charles served as General Secretary of the

¹⁰ According to family tradition, this was more of an escape than a relocation – with most of the traveling being done at night as they were led much like runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad.

¹¹ The *Religious Telescope* was the publication of the continuing mainstream branch of the church. Even though he was now a member of the UB Old Constitution Church, his obituary was shared because of his, and his family's, longstanding ministry within the original denomination.

¹² Hartsville College has an interesting history. It was established by the town of Hartsville in 1847 and turned over to the United Brethren Church in 1850 – as one of the earliest coeducational institutions in the United States. Bishop Milton Wright served on the faculty for a short time, and his sons Wilbur and Orville were students there. When the college lost its main building to fire in 1898, the library and bell were moved to the Old Constitution's developing Central College (now Huntingdon University) in Huntington IN. Not to be outdone, in 1902 the New Constitution UB Church established its own Indiana Central University (now the University of Indianapolis) as a "successor" to Hartsville College in Indianapolis IN.

Board of Missions 1889-1893, as editor of *The Christian Conservator*¹³ 1893-1897, and as the first president of Huntington College¹⁴ 1897-1902. Anvilla served for 15 years, 1891-1906, as the first head of the reorganized Woman's Missionary Association of the UB Old Constitution Church. An obituary appears in the February 22, 1921, *The Huntington Press*, page 6.

Rev. Joseph Harvey Kiracofe (1857-1935), one of the triplets, was born September 25, 1857. The 1880 census places him living with relatives in Indiana. In 1884, he married Ida Arabella Bline¹⁵ (1862-1895), whose unexpected death left him a widower with 5 five children. In 1899, he married Emma Augusta Spade¹⁶ (1861-1943). While it is difficult to give an exact account of his travels and ministerial appointments, it appears that he was associated with the UB Old Constitution Church at least part of the time. The 1900 and 1910 census records place him in Oklahoma and Minnesota respectively. He served in the ministry for more than 56 years. He died in Elkhart IN September 25, 1935, on his 78th birthday, and was the youngest and last surviving ministerial brother. He and his second wife are buried in Grace Lawn Cemetery, Elkhart IN. An obituary appears in the September 27, 1935, *Hagerstown Daily Mail*.

Three Sons in the continuing mainstream UB Church

Each of the following was born near Stribling Springs, Augusta County VA. A complete list of their appointments, obituary information for them and their spouses, and other information are given online at the conference website: susumc.org → resources → archives → data bases → pastors → PA UB pastors.

Rev. John Wesley Kiracofe (1842-1914) was born August 25, 1842. He was licensed by the Virginia Conference in 1863 and ordained in 1864. He transferred to the Pennsylvania Conference in 1887 and retired to Hagerstown MD in 1912 having completed fifty continuous years of ministry in the United Brethren Church. Meriting special biographical sketches in the histories of two different conferences, he is described in the Virginia Conference as “an able pulpit orator and long a powerful factor in the church”¹⁷ and in the Pennsylvania Conference as

¹³ *The Christian Conservator* was the official denomination publication of the UB Old Constitution Church, equivalent to *The Religious Telescope* of the mainline UB Church.

¹⁴ Kiracofe was the actually the primary facilitator behind the organization and location of this institution. Central College was the original name, chosen because of central location to the new denomination's constituency. Since there were a number of other colleges in the country by that same name, however, it typically had to be further identified by the name of its city – hence the General Conference of 1917 adopted a resolution changing its name to Huntington College.

¹⁵ Ida Bline Kiracofe came from a strong United Brethren family. Her father was John Wesley Bline (1836-1909) and a brother was named James Otterbein Bline (1874-1934). She is buried in the family plot at the Hartsville College Cemetery in Hartsville IN.

¹⁶ Emma Spade Kiracofe was the widow of a Mr. Henry Yoder (1859-1897), whom she had married in 1881 – and she brought three children of her own into the household.

¹⁷ Glover's 1965 *Pictorial History of the Virginia Conference*, page 115.

“an outstanding minister and pulpiteer.”¹⁸ Respected by his colleagues, he was elected a delegate to the General Conferences of 1905 and 1909, died August 29, 1914, and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown MD.

Rev. George William Kiracofe (1847-1919) was born August 5, 1847. He was licensed by the Virginia Conference in 1874 and ordained in 1877. He transferred to the Pennsylvania Conference in 1878 and served in Perry, Adams and York counties before entering the Baptist ministry in 1890 – most likely as “collateral damage” from the 1889 denominational split. He settled and raised his family on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, from which base he made lecture tours¹⁹ – mostly into Pennsylvania and Maryland. He died August 19, 1919, in Accomack County VA and is buried in Onancock VA.

Rev. Nimrod Addison Kiracofe (1849-1921) was born April 20, 1849. He was licensed by the Virginia Conference in 1880 and ordained in 1893. He also served in the Maryland and East Pennsylvania conferences before transferring to the Pennsylvania Conference in 1904. He died March 10, 1921, in Mechanicsburg PA and is buried in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery – adjacent to the Mechanicsburg Old People’s Home²⁰ where he served as assistant superintendent after retiring from the pulpit ministry.

James Herbert Kiracofe, one of the triplets, was born September 25, 1857. Although he was not an ordained United Brethren pastor, his sketch is included here for two reasons: first, he is the father-in-law of two pastors whose sketches appear later in the article; second, he was a prominent layman at Grace UB Church in Hagerstown MD and in the denomination. One account²¹ summarizes his importance as follows.

“Uncle Jimmie,” as he was affectionately called by thousands, held practically every office in the church at various times, excepting that of pastor. He served twenty-five years as choir director, thirteen years as superintendent of the Sunday School, and twenty-five times as delegate to annual conference. He was also honored by election to membership in six²² General Conferences.

James H. Kiracofe married Lilly Verona Stroh²³ (1871-1959). He died November 21, 1936, and is buried at Riverview Cemetery in Williamsport MD.

¹⁸ Holdcraft’s 1939 *History of the Pennsylvania Conference*, page 300-301.

¹⁹ “A Bird’s Eye-View of the Bible” was reported to be his most popular topic – see, for example, the September 28, 1912, *Accomack News*, page 5.

²⁰ Opened in 1893, this was the first benevolent home in the entire United Brethren denomination. A gift of Rev. and Mrs. Z.A. Colestock, it was used until 1915 when the guests were moved to facilities that had since been acquired at Quincy PA. Now a private home, the building is a conference historic site registered with the United Methodist Church.

²¹ Holdcraft’s 1939 *History of the Pennsylvania Conference*, page 141.

²² He was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1909, 1917, 1921, 1925, 1929 and 1933.

²³ Lilly’s younger sister Rhea Day Stroh (1882-1973) married her husband’s nephew Otterbein Perry Kiracofe (1875-1950), a son of Rev. Nimrod A. Kiracofe.

Contemporary Kiracofe Preachers in the UB ministry

Rev. William Henry Kiracofe (1817-1901), a brother to the patriarch J.W. Kiracofe, was born near Churchville, Augusta County VA, on May 10, 1827. He married Malinda Brenneman²⁴ (1831-1915) on July 28, 1850 – a union that produced ten children. Although converted in 1841, he did not join the United Brethren Church until moving to Ohio in 1857 – where he entered the ministry in the Auglaize Conference (along with his brother’s son, the previously mention Jacob H. Kiracofe) in 1871, “circumstances strangely combining to prevent his doing so at an earlier date,”²⁵ and was ordained (along with his nephew) in 1874. Following the 1889 denominational split, he remained with the main branch of the United Brethren Church, served as an itinerant for 21 years, and was known as a soul-winner. He died December 5, 1901, and is buried in the Wren Cemetery, Wren OH. His obituary appears in the 1902 *Sandusky Conference Journal*, page 53.

Rev. Samuel H. Kiracofe (1859-1886) son of the above Rev. William Kiracofe, was born in Allen County OH on April 2, 1859. He married Sarah E. Foster²⁶ on February 22, 1880. Licensed to preach by the Auglaize Conference in 1883, he served three fields of labor “and gave promise of great usefulness, but our hopes were cut off by his premature death.”²⁷ He died November 26, 1886, at Collett IN and is buried in the Allentown Cemetery, Allentown OH. His obituary appears in the 1892 *Auglaize Conference Journal*, page 5.

Later United Brethren Preachers in the Kiracofe Family Tree

Each of the following began their service in the Pennsylvania Conference of the UB/EUB denomination. Their callings reflect a wide diversity of ministries – like those of their predecessor Kiracofe brothers – from local church pastorates to conference leadership to significant denominational positions. A complete list of their appointments, obituary information for them and their spouses, and other information are given online at the conference website: susumc.org → resources → archives → data bases → pastors → PA UB pastors.

Rev. John Harrison Ness (1891-1980) was born October 23, 1891 in York PA. He married Myra Grace Kiracofe (1889-1965), daughter of James H. Kiracofe – one of the Kiracofe brothers that did not go into the ordained ministry. After

²⁴ An obituary for Mrs. Kiracofe appears in the 1916 *Sandusky Conference Journal*, page 72.

²⁵ This statement and other information about William Kiracofe is taken from Luttrell’s 1892 *History of the Auglaize Annual Conference*, pages 249.

²⁶ Nothing more is known about Sarah E. Foster, either before her marriage to Samuel or after his death – but census records indicate she was born about 1862 and that she and her older brother Henry E. lived in Allen County OH with a family surnamed Ireland.

²⁷ This statement and other information about Samuel Kiracofe is taken from Luttrell’s 1892 *History of the Auglaize Annual Conference*, page 250.

graduating from Lebanon College and Princeton Seminary in Princeton NJ, he served as the pastor of York First 1919-1931, the superintendent²⁸ of the Pennsylvania Conference 1931-48, and the head of the EUB denomination's General Board of Pensions 1948-1962. He died February 15, 1980, in Lebanon OH, where he had served in retirement as the superintendent of that city's Otterbein Home. He is buried in Dayton OH.

Rev. John Herbert Ness (1919-2000), son of the above John Harrison Ness, was born September 29, 1919, in Hagerstown MD. After graduating from Lebanon Valley College and Bonebrake [now United] Theological Seminary in Dayton OH, he served several appointments in the Pennsylvania Conference before heading the EUB denomination's General Historical Society 1958-68. In 1966 he authored the definitive *One Hundred Fifty Years: A History of Publishing in the Evangelical United Brethren Church*.²⁹ Upon the formation of the United Methodist Church in 1968, he served as the first head of that denomination's General Commission on Archives and History 1968-81. He died September 18, 2000, in Baltimore MD. He is buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Chambersburg PA.

Rev. Albert Snyder (1806-1965) was born March 20, 1896, in Washington County MD. He married Pauline A. Kiracofe (1899-1985) – another daughter of James H. Kiracofe, one of the Kiracofe brothers that did not go into the ordained ministry. A decorated WWI veteran, he worked for the USPS in Hagerstown MD for 38 years before entering the ministry – with encouragement from his brother-in-law (and conference superintendent) John Harrison Ness. He served as a supply pastor for 6 years before being licensed by the Pennsylvania Conference in 1950 and ordained in 1958. He died March 4, 1965, in Frederick MD. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown MD.

In Conclusion

One missing part of the Kiracofe story is exactly how the patriarch J.W. Kiracofe (1816-1884) and his wife Polly became Methodists in the first place and stayed true to that denomination – especially when Methodism was not particularly strong in that German-dominated section of Virginia – while the children all became United Brethren. Although camp meetings appear to have played an

²⁸ In the United Brethren Church, the bishops were not involved the day-to-day running of the conferences – they covered wide episcopal areas, presided at annual conference sessions, served on denominational boards and agencies, and represented the denomination at local events of significance. The actual head of each conference was a conference superintendent elected from within the conference who guided the work of the conference, oversaw the district superintendents, and reported to the bishop as necessary.

²⁹ I suspect Dr. Ness was especially interested to include on pages 397-398 the account of the role his mother's uncle Rev. Charles H. Kiracofe played concerning the UB Printing Establishment during the 1889 denominational split.

important part of the story, the pastors/denominations God used in those camp meetings remain mostly unknown.³⁰

Considering the denominational and geographical diversity of the Kiracofe story presented here – which involved only one small branch of the family tree – the conclusion must be that it was the **“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”** theme of this volume of *The Chronicle* that led those presented to remain faithful and impactful through their denominational splits and mergers. Those pictured below thank you for having an interest in their story and invite you to continue following wherever the Spirit of may lead.



1912 Kiracofe Family Reunion, near Mount Solon VA³¹

back from left to right: 6 Kiracofe brothers and 1 brother-in-law

Rev. Nimrod Addison Kiracofe

Rev. Charles Hiram Kiracofe

Rev. George William Kiracofe

Zacharias T. Daggy, husband of Mary Jane Kiracofe

Rev. John Wesley Kiracofe

Rev. Joseph Harvey Kiracofe

James Herbert Kiracofe

front from left to right: 6 Kiracofe-related women

Mamie Daggy, daughter of Zacharias & Mary Jane (Kiracofe) Daggy

Anvilla Rundles, wife of Charles Hiram Kiracofe

Myrtle (Kiracofe) Cooper, daughter of George William Kiracofe

Mary Jane (Kiracofe) Daggy

Susan Penora Buxton, wife of John Wesley Kiracofe

Lilly Venona Stroh, wife of James Herbert Kiracofe

³⁰ In his 1912 “Fifty Years in the Pulpit” article on file in the conference archives, Rev. J.W. Kiracofe states that he was converted at a campmeeting at Mt, Pisgah, Augusta County VA and adds that “my father, though a Methodist, tented in the United Brethren Camp.”

³¹ This picture is from the website shambaugh.org/pictures.htm, which contains many labeled photographs of the extended Kiracofe family.